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LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 December 1991 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning a report published in The New York Times of 11 December 1991 on the persistence of the United States Administration in its policy of interfering in the affairs of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 December 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a number of excerpts from a report by Patrick E. Tyler published in The New York Times of 11 December 1991:

> "The military options, prepared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the last three weeks, would prepare the United States for a situation in which key officers in Iraq's armed forces might request support from Washington in an attempt to seize power from President Saddam Hussein.
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> "The options are to be reviewed on Thursday at a high-level meeting of the so-called deputies committee of key Cabinet departments, which is headed by Adm. Jonathan T. Howe, the deputy national security adviser.
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> "The military options were provided by Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the President's top military adviser. They were reviewed by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney before being sent to the White House late last week.
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> "The White House wants a military solution based only on air forces and naval forces, officials said, while General Powell is said to believe strongly that the removal of Mr. Hussein cannot be guaranteed under any coup scenario without committing American ground troops, ...
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> "...
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> "The military review was conducted in response to two specific scenarios posed by the National Security Council staff, officials said. Under one scenario, Iraqi military commanders began a coup attempt that bogged down and then asked for American assistance. Under a second scenario, Iraqi military leaders signaled to Washington they were ready to depose Mr. Hussein if the United States would provide support, particularly air support, since the Iraqi Air Force remains grounded ..."

I further have the honour to refer you to my letter of 14 October 1991 concerning the statement made by the President of the United States at a press conference on 4 October, when he said: "I should like to see Saddam Hussein out of power so that we can normalize our relations with the Iraqi people. This has been my policy all along, and his removal is in the interest of the United States ...". What is clear is that the policy of the President of the United States has entered a stage of actual implementation and of preparation for the use of armed force against Iraq.

Such are the malicious, noxious and perverse designs of United States policy and such the manoeuvres and statements that evince malicious and noxious intentions. They are incompatible with the basic purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in particular with its Article 2, paragraph 4, which states that "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other matter inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

The measures now being taken and the scenarios being considered in the corridors of the United States Administration, as revealed by the report, are indicative both of preparations for the use of armed force against Iraq and of incitement of members of the Iraqi armed forces to revolt against the existing authority. This is inconsistent with the rules of international law and custom to say nothing of the fact that it constitutes an abrupt departure from the proper mode of interaction between States.

We nevertheless have confidence in our people and our armed forces and in their patriotism and fair-mindedness, and our intention in all the references we have made has been to state with conviction that the United States Administration is persisting in its policy of interfering in Iraq's affairs in a manner that is at variance with its obligation, as a permanent member of the Security Council, to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and founding member of the United Nations and from threatening its security, its territorial integrity, its independence and the political choices made by its people.

Silence in the face of such perverse policies and of a dualistic interpretation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international legitimacy on the part of the United States of America will have dire consequences for the United Nations and for the future of peoples which have made sacrifices for their independence, freedom and dignity.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq calls upon you to meet your responsibility in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law by refusing to accept the designs of the United States Administration against the Iraqi people and its national Government and by bringing an end to its persistence in interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and in implementing its infamous policy.

I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Iraq